# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

HMK ENTERPRISES, INC., ROBERT ACKERMAN and STEVEN KAROL,	8 MLW
Plaintiffs,	) MAGISTRATE JUDGE Dowler
v.	Civil Action No
THE CHUBB CORPORATION FEDERAL INSURANCE COMPANY	) ) )
CHUBB & SON, INC.,  Defendants.	AMOUNT & SUMMONS ISSUED, U/A LOCAL RULE 4.1
NOTICE OF R	

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a), Defendants THE CHUBB CORPORATION ("Chubb"), FEDERAL INSURANCE COMPANY ("Federal") and CHUBB & SON INC. ("Chubb & Son") file this Notice to remove the above-captioned case to this Court and, in support of removal, respectfully state as follows:

- Chubb, Federal and Chubb & Son are defendants in a civil action brought on or 1. about November 12, 2004, in the Superior Court of Suffolk, Massachusetts, styled HMK Enterprises, Inc., et al. v. The Chubb Corporation, et al., No. 04-4969-E.
- A copy of the Complaint was served on Defendant Chubb & Son on December 3, 2. 2004. Defendant Chubb was served on December 9, 2004. Defendant Federal was served on December 10, 2004. This Notice of Removal is therefore filed within thirty (30) days of service of the complaint and is timely filed under 27 U.S.C. § 1446(b).
- A copy of the complaint and the summons, being all of the papers served upon 3. Defendants in this action, is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

- The district courts of the United States have original jurisdiction over this action 4. based on diversity of citizenship between the parties. The Defendants are now and were at the time the action commenced diverse in citizenship from all of the Plaintiffs and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs.
- 5. Plaintiff HMK Enterprises, Inc. ("HMK") is a corporation organized and incorporated under the laws of the state of Delaware, and has its principal place of business now and at the time this action was commenced in Waltham, Massachusetts.
- Plaintiff Robert Ackerman ("Ackerman") is an individual resident and citizen of 6. the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- Plaintiff Steven Karol ("Karol") is an individual resident and citizen of the 7. Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- Defendant Chubb is a corporation organized and incorporated under the laws of 8. the State of New Jersey, and has its principal place of business now and at the time this action was commenced in New Jersey.
- Defendant Federal is a corporation organized and incorporated under the laws of 9. the State of Indiana, and has its principal place of business now and at the time this action was commenced in New Jersey.
- 10. Defendant Chubb & Son is a corporation organized and incorporated under the laws of the State of New York, and has its principal place of business now and at the time this action was commenced in New Jersey.
- In this action, the Plaintiffs seek insurance coverage under Policy No. 8122-2404 11. (the "Policy"), issued by Federal to HMK. The Policy has a policy limit of \$5 million.

- Document 1
- 12. The Plaintiffs seek coverage under the Policy for defense costs and other loss incurred in Sheffield Steel Corporation v. HMK Enterprises, Inc. et al, No. 03-0134 (the "Underlying Action), an adversary proceeding filed against HMK, Karol and Ackerman in Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma. The Plaintiff in the Underlying Action sought to recover allegedly improper dividend payments made to HMK, Karol and Ackerman and other shareholders. Those allegedly improper payments totaled more than \$12.5 million. In addition, the Plaintiff sought to recover \$6,822,707 in stock redemption payments made to Ackerman. The parties in the Underlying Action have agreed to a settlement which, if approved by the bankruptcy court, would involve payments exceeding \$5 million. Thus, the amount in controversy far exceeds \$75,000.
- 13. Removal of this action is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1441 since it is a civil action brought in a state court, and the district courts of the United States have original jurisdiction over the subject matter under U.S.C. § 1332 because the plaintiffs and defendants are diverse in citizenship and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

WHEREFORE, Chubb, Federal, and Chubb & Son, the only defendants in this action, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441 and in conformance with the requirements set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b) and the Rules of the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts, remove this action for trial from the Superior Court of Suffolk, Massachusetts, to this Court, on this 23rd day of December, 2004.

Dated: December 23, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

DEFENDANTS,

THE CHUBB CORPORATION, FEDERAL INSURANCE COMPANY, and CHUBB & SON, INC.,

By their attorneys,

Stephen J. Abarbanel (BBO # 010100) Lee M. Holland (BBO # 650617)

ROBINSON & COLE LLP

One Boston Place; 25th Floor Boston, MA 02108-4404

(617) 557-5900

Counsel:

Jonathan A. Constine, Esq. Douglas S. Crosno, Esq. Hogan & Hartson LLP 555 Thirteenth Street, NW Washington, DC 20004 Phone: 202/637-6885

Fax: 202/637-5910

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Lee M. Holland, hereby certify that on this 23rd day of December, 2004, I served a true copy of the foregoing document via first-class mail, postage prepaid, upon the following:

Howard M. Cooper Kevin T. Peters Heidi A. Nadel Todd & Weld, LLP 28 State Street Boston, MA 02110

Lee M. Holland

SJS 44 (Rev. 3/99)

#### CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANT	rs	· ·
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(c) Attorney's (Firm Nam	e, Address, and Telephone Num	mber)		Attorneys (If Kno		
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U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenshi		Citizen	of Another State 🗆		and Principal Place
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VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	UNDER F.R.C.P. 23		• •	ore than \$5	CHECK YES o 0,000 JURY DEMAN	nly if demanded in complaint: ID: XD Yes □ No
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# COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

SUFFOLK, SS SUPERIOR COURT DEPARTMENT HMK ENTERPRISES, INC., ROBERT ACKERMAN and STEVEN KAROL., Plaintiffs. Civil Action No. 04-\_ ٧. THE CHUBB CORPORATION. FEDERAL INSURANCE COMPANY, CHUBB & SON, INC.,) Defendants.

#### <u>COMPLAINT</u>

Plaintiffs HMK Enterprises, Inc. ("HMK"), Robert Ackerman ("Mr. Ackerman") and Steven Karol ("Mr. Karol") (collectively, "the Insureds") bring this action for a judgment declaring that Defendants The Chubb Corporation, The Federal Insurance Company and Chubb & Son, Inc. are obligated to provide insurance coverage, including indemnification and advancement of defense costs, to the Insureds in connection with a lawsuit brought against the Insureds in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma. The Insureds also seek damages against Chubb for its breach of contract, and breach of the duty of good faith and fair dealing based on, among other things, refusing to provide coverage for claims against the Insureds where insurance coverage is required, reversing its longstanding coverage position upon which the Insureds have relied for over a year and taking these actions in bad faith and at a time and under circumstances designed to deter the Insureds from pursuing the litigation

because of the threat that their defense costs would not be covered and thus coercing them into using their own money to settle the case at the mediation.

#### **PARTIES**

- 1. Plaintiff HMK Enterprises, Inc. is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with its principal place of business at 800 South Street, Waltham, Massachusetts in Middlesex County.
- 2. Mr. Ackerman is an individual residing in Boston, Massachusetts, Suffolk County. Mr. Ackerman is the former Chief Executive Officer and a former director of Sheffield Steel, HMK's former subsidiary.
- 3. Mr. Karol is an individual residing in Boston, Massachusetts, Suffolk County. Mr. Karol is a former director of Sheffield Steel, HMK's former subsidiary.
- 4. Defendant The Chubb Corporation, informally known as "the Chubb Group of Insurance Companies," was at all relevant times, and is, a corporation organized under the laws of the State of New Jersey, that is authorized to and does conduct business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with its principal place of business located at 15 Mountain View Road in Warren, New Jersey.
- 5. Defendant Federal Insurance Company ("Federal") was at all relevant times, and is, a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Indiana, that is authorized to and does conduct business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with its principal place of business located at 15 Mountain View Road in Warren, New Jersey. Federal is a wholly-owned subsidiary of, and a "principal member" of Chubb.
- 6. Defendant Chubb & Son, Inc. ("Chubb & Son") was at all relevant times, and is, a corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York, that is authorized to and does

conduct business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with its principal place of business located at 15 Mountain View Road in Warren, New Jersey. Chubb & Son is a division of Federal. Chubb Corporation, The Federal Insurance Company and Chubb & Son, Inc. are referred to collectively as "the Defendants" or "Chubb".

### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 7. Jurisdiction of this Court over this matter is proper in that, *inter alia*, all of the parties are either residents of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or have conducted substantial business in Massachusetts directly related to the claims of this case.
- 8. Venue is proper in this Court because, *inter alia*, one or more of the defendants resides in this county.

#### **FACTS**

- 9. On or about September 25, 2002, Chubb issued Policy No. 8122-2404 ("the Policy") to HMK for the policy period September 1, 2002 to September 1, 2003. HMK is the Insured Organization under the Policy. The "Insured Persons" under the Policy are defined to include (1) "[a]ny person who has been, now is, or shall become a duly elected director or a duly elected or appointed officer of the Insured Organization . . . [and] [a]ny past, present or future director, officer of the Insured Organization; and (2) the Insured Organization . . . and its subsidiaries."
- 10. Sheffield Steel Corporation ("Sheffield") is an Oklahoma corporation. On December 7, 2001, Sheffield filed a voluntary petition for relief under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma. On July 26, 2002, the Bankruptcy Court confirmed the "Second Amended and Restated Joint Plan of Reorganization" ("the Plan"), which became effective on August 14, 2002. Sheffield

emerged from bankruptcy as Reorganized Sheffield. Prior to its bankruptcy filing, Sheffield was a subsidiary of HMK.

- Mr. Ackerman was, at all times relevant to this lawsuit, the Chief Executive 11. Officer and a director of Sheffield.
  - Mr. Karol was, at all times relevant to this lawsuit, a director of Sheffield. 12.
- After the Plan was confirmed, on July 10, 2003, Reorganized Sheffield 13. commenced an Adversary Proceeding in the Northern District of Oklahoma Bankruptcy Court against the Insureds styled as Sheffield Steel Corporation v. HMK Enterprises, Inc., Steven E. Karol and Robert W. Ackerman, No. 03-0134. The Adversary Complaint was in four counts, including Avoidance and Fraudulent Transfer under the Oklahoma Uniform Fraudulent Transfer Act (OUFTA) section 117 against the Insureds (Count I), Avoidance and Fraudulent Transfer under the OUFTA section 116 against the Insureds (Count II), Improper Dividend against Mr. Ackerman and Mr. Karol as directors of Sheffield (Count III), and Improper Dividend against the Insureds as shareholders of Sheffield (Count IV).
- The Insureds' counsel immediately notified Chubb of the Adversary Proceeding, 14. sent Chubb a copy of the Adversary Complaint and requested that Chubb honor its obligations under the Policy.
- Chubb initially denied coverage, claiming that the Plaintiff in the Adversary 15. Proceeding (Reorganized Sheffield) was an Insured under the Policy and thus the Policy's "insured versus insured" exclusion applied. Chubb's position was entirely meritless. The Insureds, through counsel, demonstrated to Chubb that Reorganized Sheffield is not an HMK subsidiary and thus is not an Insured under the Policy and eventually Chubb reversed its meritless position on the "insured versus insured" exclusion. Chubb, however, refused to

reimburse the Insureds for legal costs incurred in connection with its wrongful and meritless assertion of the "Insured versus Insured" exclusion.

- Thereafter, the Insureds' counsel wrote to Chubb concerning the availability of 16. coverage under an additional Insuring Clause of the Policy. Chubb responded by letter, raising only three specific issues, which were reserved and later resolved, and otherwise acknowledged coverage.
- Chubb approved the Insureds' retention of lead defense counsel and of local 17. counsel in Oklahoma, agreed to provide coverage for the claims asserted in the Adversary Proceeding, agreed to pay all defense costs, and commenced paying defense costs. While Chubb stated generally, and vaguely that coverage was subject to the Policy terms and conditions, it did not indicate that it believed that any of the claims set forth in the Adversary Complaint would not be covered, never asserted that there would be or was any basis for any allocation of defense costs for uncovered versus covered claims or that the Policy would not cover HMK as an Insured Organization in connection with the claims asserted by Reorganized Sheffield (and instead expressly stated Chubb would provide coverage to HMK).
- On December 5, 2003, in response to the Insureds' Motion to Dismiss the 18. Adversary Complaint, Reorganized Sheffield filed its First Amended Adversary Complaint ("the Amended Complaint"). The Amended Complaint retained the four counts that were included in the Adversary Complaint and added five additional counts: Count V for Disallowance of Claim against the Insureds, Count VI against HMK for alleged indebtedness, Count VII against Mr. Ackerman and Mr. Karol as directors for breach of fiduciary duty, Count VIII against Mr. Ackerman for Avoidance and Recovery of Fraudulent Transfers under OUFTA section 117 and

Count IX against Mr. Ackerman for Avoidance and Recovery of Fraudulent Transfers under OUFTA section 116.

- Complaint and provided a copy of the Amended Complaint to Chubb. At all times, the Insureds and their counsel kept Chubb fully informed of status of the Adversary Proceeding, sent copies of court papers to Chubb and sought approval for specific actions undertaken by the Insureds and their counsel in connection with the defense of the Adversary Proceeding. Furthermore, in the context of initial meetings with Plaintiff's counsel in the Adversary Proceeding, and with Chubb's prior approval, the Insureds' counsel revealed the Policy limits to counsel for Reorganized Sheffield and represented it availability and applicability to the claims in the Complaint.
- 20. After receiving the Amended Complaint, with the full knowledge and approval of Chubb, the Insureds filed a Motion to Dismiss certain counts of the Amended Complaint and separately filed a Motion for Summary Judgment on each and every count of the Amended Complaint. Chubb also approved and paid for investigation and filing of an indemnification action against Sheffield.
- 21. While the Motion to Dismiss and Motion for Summary Judgment were pending, the parties again discussed the possibility of mediation. The Insureds' counsel immediately notified Chubb and was told that the matter had been transferred to a new claims specialist. The new claims specialist explicitly approved of (and indeed himself suggested) the idea of mediation and, in late September or early October, the parties scheduled mediation for November 10, 2004, in Tulsa, Oklahoma before a retired federal judge as mediator. Mr. Ackerman, Mr. Karol and their counsel made travel arrangements to fly to Tulsa with the full

regard to the already scheduled mediation. Chubb's actions were in bad faith and designed to coerce its Insureds to use their own money to settle the case at the mediation.

- On November 10, 2004, the parties engaged in mediation in Oklahoma. Despite 25. demand by the Insureds and their counsel, Chubb refused to participate in the mediation in good faith and instead continued wrongfully to disclaim coverage and threaten the Insureds that future defense costs would be apportioned despite no reservation of this issue ever, and Chubb's payment of all defense costs for over a year. Chubb's bad faith actions were designed to deter the Insureds from pursuing the litigation and to coerce them into using their own money at the mediation.
- 26. The Insureds have no adequate remedy other than that sought herein by which their rights and remedies may be resolved in this dispute. Should Chubb's failure to honor its clear obligations continue, the Insureds will be without the funds to which they are entitled to defend themselves.
- The Insureds have fully complied with all conditions contained in the Policy and 27. relied upon the scope of coverage Chubb provided during the course of the Adversary Proceeding, statements made and approvals given by Chubb until recently, on its limited reservation of rights, and its actions following the resolution of these limited issues, which were reserved.
- Chubb acted wrongfully and in bad faith in reversing its coverage position, 28. denying coverage to HMK, denying coverage for seven of the nine counts of the Amended Complaint, denying coverage beyond defense costs for the remaining two claims, insisting upon allocation (which Chubb apparently also insists is retroactive despite that it never mentioned

allocation for nearly two years) and in literally destroying the mediation efforts set up to settle the Adversary Proceeding in its entirety.

#### Count I - Declaratory Judgment

- 29. Plaintiffs allege and incorporate herein by reference Paragraphs 1 through 28 above in their entirety.
- 30. Chubb has refused to indemnify, defend or provide insurance coverage to the Insureds as it is required to under the Policy. Accordingly, there now exists an actual case or controversy between the Insureds and Chubb.
- 31. The Insureds are entitled to a judgment, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 231A, declaring that Chubb is obligated to indemnify the Insureds in the Adversary Proceeding and to reimburse the Insureds for their attorney's fees and costs incurred in connection with defending the Adversary Proceeding.

#### Count II - Breach of Contract

- 32. Plaintiffs allege and incorporate herein by reference Paragraphs 1 through 31 above in their entirety.
- 33. Chubb issued Policy No. 8122-2404 to HMK and thereby agreed to provide coverage for the Insureds during times relevant to this lawsuit.
  - Chubb breached this insurance contract.
- 35. As a result of Chubb's breach of contract, the Insureds have suffered and continue to suffer damages.

# Count III -Breach of Duty of Good Faith and Fair Dealing

36. Plaintiffs allege and incorporate herein by reference Paragraphs 1 through 35 above in their entirety.

#### JURY TRIAL DEMAND

Plaintiffs demand a jury trial as to all claims and issues so triable.

Respectfully submitted,

HMK ENTERPRISES, INC., ROBERT ACKERMAN and STEVEN KAROL,

By their attorneys,

Howard M. Cooper (BBO #543842)

Kevin T. Peters (BBO # 550522) Heidi A. Nadel (BBO#641617)

TODD & WELD LLP

28 State Street

Boston, MA 02110

DATED: November 2/2004



SUPERIOR COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT CIVILACTION

HMK Enterprises, Inc., Steven Karol	No		
v. The Chubb Corporation, Chubb & Son., Inc.,	Federal Insurance Company,  Defendant(s)		

#### **SUMMONS**

The Chubb Corporation



To the above-named Defendant:

Howard M. Cooper, Esq. You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon\_ 02109 Todd & Weld, LLP, 28 State Street, 31st Floor, Boston, , an answer to (above) plaintiff's autorney, whose address is\_ the complaint which is herewith served upon you, within 20 days after service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You are also required to file your answer to the complaint in the office of the Clerk of this court at Boston either before service upon plaintiff's attorney or within a reasonable time thereafter.

Unless otherwise provided by Rule 13(a), your answer must state as a counterclaim any claim which you may have against the plaintiff which arises out of the transaction or occurrence that is the subject matter of the plaintiff's claim or you will thereafter be barred from making such claim in any other action.

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Witness, Suzanne V. DelVecchio, Esquire, at Boston, the		
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Michael Joseph Donovan

- 1. This summons is issued pursuant to Rule 4 of the Massachusetts Rules of Civil Procedure. NOTES.
- 2. When more than one defendant is involved, the names of all defendants should appear in the caption. If a separate summons is used for each defendant, each should be addressed to the particular defendant.
- 3. TO PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY: PLEASE CIRCLE TYPE OF ACTION INVOLVED (1) TOR 1 — (2) MOTOR VEHICLE TORT — (3) CONTRACT — (4) EQUITABLE RELIEF — (5) OTHER

12/14/2004 14:31 FAX 214754077.

CT System

Service of Process Transmittal Form Boston, Massachusetts

12/03/2004

Vla Federal Express (2nd Day)

8122-24-04 ED 98409

TO: General Course! The Chubb Corporation 15 Mountain View Road Warren, NJ 07061-1615 CHUBB GROUP

DEC 0 8 2004

CLAIMS/DALLAS (2)

PROCESS SERVED IN MASSACHUSETTS RE:

FOR

Chubb et Son, Inc. Domestic State: NY

ENCLOSED ARE COMES OF LEGAL PROCESS RECEIVED BY THE STATUTORY AGENT OF THE ABOVE COMPANY AS FOLLOWS:

1. TITLE OF ACTIONS

HMK Enterprises Inc., et al., Phr. vs The Chubb Corporation, et al. including Chubb & Son, Inc., Deft.

2. DOCUMENT(S) SERVED

Summons, Complaint

3. COURT:

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Suffolk Superior Court

Case Number 04-+4969

4. NATURE OF ACTIONS

Declaratory Judgment/Breach of Contract/Breach of Duty of Good Faith and Dealing

CT Corporation System, Boston, Massachusetts

5. ON WHOM PROCESS WAS SERVED: 6. DATE AND HOUR OF SERVICE:

By Process server on 12/03/2004 at 13:00

7. APPEARANCE OF ANSWER DUE:

Within 20 Days

B. ATTORNEY(S):

Heldi A. Nadel Todd & Weld LLP 2B State Street Boston, MA 02110

9. REMARKS:

SIGNED

CT Corporation System

PER ADDRESS Yvette Concepcion 101 Federal Street Boston, MA 02110 SOP WS 0006817399

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

SUFFOLK, ss.



SUPERIOR COURT DEPARTMENT OFTHETRIALCOURT **CIVIL ACTION** 

	No. 04-4969
HMK Enterprises, Inc., and Steven Karol,	Robert Ackerman , Plaintiff(s)
<b>v.</b>	
The Chubb Corporation, Chubb & Son, Inc.,	Federal Insurance Company,, Defendant(s)

## **SUMMONS**

Chubb & Son, Inc. c/o CT Corporation 101 Federal Street, Boston, MA 02110

To the above-named Defendant:

Howard M. Cooper, Esq. You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon... Todd & Weld LLP, 28 State Street, 31st Floor, Boston, MA 02109 (above) plaintiff's attorney, whose address is. the complaint which is herewith served upon you, within 20 days after service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You are also required to file your answer to the complaint in the office of the Clerk of this court at Boston either before service upon plaintiff's attorney or within a reasonable time thereafter.

Unless otherwise provided by Rule 13(a), your answer must state as a counterclaim any claim which you may have against the plaintiff which arises out of the transaction or occurrence that is the subject matter of the plaintiff's claim or you will thereafter be barred from making such claim in any other action.

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Type No. 1 Femire at Boston, the 3rd	uay U
Witness, Suzanne V. DelVecchio, Esquire, at Boston, the 3rd	
Witness, Suzanne V. DelVecchin, Esquine, at Boston, thousand and four.  December, in the year of our Lord two thousand and four.	

Michael Joseph Donovan

Clerk/Magistrate

1. This summons is issued pursuant to Rule 4 of the Massachuseus Rules of Civil Procedure.

2. When more thus one defendant is involved, the names of all defendants should appear in the caption. If a separate summons is used for each defendant, each should be addressed to the particular defendant.

3. TO PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY: PLEASE CIRCLE TYPE OF ACTION INVOLVED (1) TORT — (2) MOTOR VEHICLE TORT — (3) CONTRACT — (4) EQUITABLE RELIEF — (5) OTHER

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT —— You need not appear personally in court to answer the complaint, but if you claim to have a delense, either you or your allomey must serve a copy of your willen answer within 20 days as specified herein and also file the original in the Clerk's Office.